

Appl. No. 10/780,342
Amendment dated January 25, 2005
Reply to Office action of October 27, 2004

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A marine propulsion device, comprising:
a metallic gear housing structure;
~~a polymer layer disposed on an outer surface of~~ overmolded on said gear housing structure.

Claim 2 (original): The marine propulsion device of claim 1, wherein:
said metallic gear housing structure is made of aluminum.

Claim 3 (original): The marine propulsion device of claim 1, wherein:
said polymer layer comprises a fiber filled polymer.

Claim 4 (original): The marine propulsion device of claim 1, wherein:
said polymer layer comprises a glass filled polymer

Claim 5 (original): The marine propulsion device of claim 1, wherein:
said polymer layer comprises a carbon filled polymer.

Claim 6 (currently amended): The marine propulsion device of claim 1, wherein:
said polymer layer is ~~molded~~ overmolded around and surrounding said gear housing structure.

Claim 7 (original): The marine propulsion device of claim 1, further comprising:
an adhesion promoting substance to facilitate the adhesion of said polymer layer to
an outer surface of said gear housing structure.

Claim 8 (currently amended): ~~The marine propulsion device of claim 7, wherein:~~ A marine propulsion device, comprising:

5 a metallic gear housing structure;
a polymer layer disposed on an outer surface of said gear housing structure;
an adhesion promoting substance to facilitate the adhesion of said polymer layer to
an outer surface of said gear housing structure, wherein said adhesion promoting substance
is disposed within said polymer layer.

Claim 9 (original): The marine propulsion device of claim 7, wherein:

 said adhesion promoting substance is disposed between said metallic gear housing
structure and said polymer layer.

Claim 10 (original): The marine propulsion device of claim 1, wherein:

 said polymer layer is injection molded around said metallic gear housing structure.

Claim 11 (original): The marine propulsion device of claim 1, further comprising:

 a drive shaft housing attached to said gear housing structure, said polymer layer
being disposed on said drive shaft housing.

Claim 12 (currently amended): ~~The marine propulsion device of claim 1, wherein:~~ A marine propulsion device, comprising:

5 a metallic gear housing structure;
a polymer layer disposed on an outer surface of said gear housing structure;
wherein the thermal coefficient of expansion of said metallic gear housing structure
is generally similar to the thermal coefficient of expansion of said polymer layer.

Claim 13 (original): The marine propulsion device of claim 1, wherein:

said polymer layer is held in intimate contact with an outer surface of said gear housing structure with no space therebetween.

Claim 14 (original): The marine propulsion device of claim 13, wherein:

said polymer layer is mechanically bonded to said gear housing structure.

Claim 15 (original): The marine propulsion device of claim 13, wherein:

said polymer layer is chemically bonded to said gear housing structure.

Claims 16-17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (currently amended): ~~The marine propulsion device of claim 17, wherein: A marine propulsion device, comprising:~~

an aluminum gear housing structure;

a polymer layer disposed on an outer surface of said gear housing structure, said polymer layer being injection molded around said aluminum gear housing structure;

an adhesion promoting substance to facilitate the adhesion of said polymer layer to an outer surface of said gear housing structure, wherein said adhesion promoting substance is disposed within said polymer layer.

Claims 19-22 (canceled)

Claim 23 (currently amended): ~~The marine propulsion device of claim 22, wherein: A marine propulsion device, comprising:~~

an aluminum gear housing structure;

a polymer layer disposed on an outer surface of said gear housing structure, said polymer layer being injection molded around said aluminum gear housing structure;

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wherein said polymer layer is held in intimate contact with an outer surface of said gear housing structure with no space therebetween;

wherein said polymer layer is bonded to said gear housing structure through a plurality of holes formed through said gear housing structure.

Claims 24-31 (canceled)